



## BEGINNING OF A PICTURE FOR EVERY MONTH OF MY FIRST YEAR



<https://www.facebook.com/groups/SendAshley/>

## ONE YEAR ON THE FIELD!



**Above:** January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at the Santiago Airport in the Dominican Republic



**Right:** One year later on January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at Iglesia Luterana Principe de Paz in Puerto Rico

On January 17th I celebrated one full year of living on the Latin American and Caribbean mission field. The first 6 months I lived in the Dominican Republic and the past 6 months I have been living in Puerto Rico, my new home.

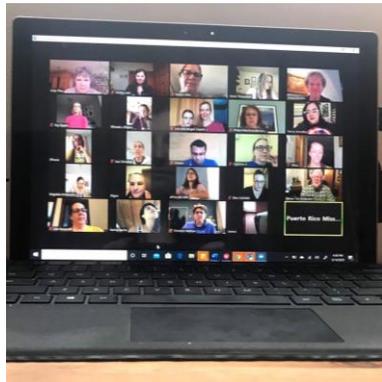
One year ago, I left Wisconsin with 2 checked bags, a carry on, and a backpack to start my journey as a missionary in the Dominican Republic (DR). I was excited, nervous, and ready to serve the Lord. As I reflect back on the year, many things were out of my control. Beginning with what day I was able to move to the DR, how long I stayed in the DR, the worldwide pandemic, when I was able to travel to Puerto Rico (PR) and so much more. If I were in control the timeline of my year would have looked differently. I would not have stayed in the DR as long as I did. I would have stayed the initial three months and been on my way to PR. I had different housing plans for where I would be living in PR. But all these things were not part of God's plan. There was definitely a reason I was participating in a bible study on Ecclesiastes 3 as I moved to the field. *For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven* (Ecclesiastes 3:1).

This year I learned, and frankly I am still learning, that God's timing and plans are better than any plans we could make for ourselves. If I would not have stayed in the DR for an extra three months, I would not have built the relationships I did with the missionaries there. Looking back on the year, I am able to see how God used the time spent waiting, to make my service beautiful in His timing. Missionary life is not always easy and waiting for God's timing is hard, *"but for I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future"* (Jeremiah 29:11).

Thank you for keeping me in prayer as I navigate life on the mission field. Thank you for your encouraging words and kind messages. I am so grateful we are partners in the Gospel, and we get to share the love of Christ together in Puerto Rico! Stay tuned for next month's newsletter for an exciting announcement!



To be added to or removed from this mailing list, send an email message to [Ashley.lehr@lcms.org](mailto:Ashley.lehr@lcms.org) with the word ADD or REMOVE in the subject line.



# A PICTURE FOR EVERY MONTH OF MY FIRST YEAR!



## PLEASE PRAY FOR:

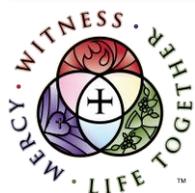
- All of our English Students that they may hear the Gospel through language learning
- The remodel of our CARD house and education center.

## GIVE THANKS FOR:

- One year on the Field
- My parents being able to safely visit PR during Christmas

## PRAISE GOD FOR:

- The many congregations and individuals who pray for us, encourage and support us
- The wonderful Missionary Families in the LAC Region



There are many opportunities to serve as short-term or GEO missionaries. Check out the current list and download an application at [lcms.org/service](https://lcms.org/service). Click on "Service Opportunities."

You can support my work by giving online to [www.lcms.org/lehr](https://www.lcms.org/lehr) or

A check can be made payable to the **LCMS** with **Ashley Lehr** in the memo to:

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
P.O. Box 66861  
St. Louis, MO 63166-6861

### Mission Central

Adopt me as your missionary by visiting [missioncentral.us/Lehr/](https://missioncentral.us/Lehr/)

A check can be made out to **Mission Central** with "A10899-69467" in the memo and sent to: Mission Central 40718 HWY E16 Mapleton, IA 51034